

Girl's relatives sought to cure blood disorder

Canadian foster parents search for abandoned child's family members

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and LIANG SHUANG in Beijing

Local authorities in Southwest China's Guizhou province began a search on Friday for possible siblings of a girl who was abandoned about 10 years ago and was later adopted by a Canadian couple.

If they succeed, it means the girl will have a good chance of curing her disease through a bone-marrow transplant.

The girl, named Hosanna, was left alone on the doorsteps of Tianzhu county police station at dawn on May 6, 2007, according to the county's police department. When they failed to find her parents, the police sent her to a local welfare house, where she was named Chen Fupei and given a presumed birthday that made her 1 year old.

Greg Crowell and Cathy Crowell, a couple who are now in their 50s and already had four children, adopted the pale-looking girl from the welfare house later that month, knowing that she had a disease.

They gave her a new name. "We called her 'Hosanna,' which is Hebrew for 'savior,'" Cathy Crowell said.

They took her to Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, where pediatric doctors from Nanfang Hospital affiliated to Southern Medical University diagnosed her with severe beta thalassemia, a hereditary blood disorder resulting from

"We do not want to pressure them. They need our respect and we want them to come forward on their own."

Cathy Crowell, foster mother of Hosanna

the poor ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen.

Following doctors' advice, Hosanna has spent her life receiving blood transfusions every two to three weeks, as well as daily injections from the transfusions.

"Every night she needs to be given an injection," Cathy Crowell said. "It is all very difficult for her."

"Hosanna can survive with blood transfusions, but she will need them for her entire life," she added.

In the past decade, Hosanna, who will celebrate her 11th birthday this spring, has been living in Alberta, Canada, with the couple. They have returned to the welfare house during that time, but have had no luck in finding her biological parents.

Doctors in China and Canada

have told the couple that the only way to cure Hosanna is through a bone-marrow transplant, which requires a match that is most likely to be found in a sibling.

The couple recently posted an open letter online, announcing the search for relatives of the girl. They offered to cover the cost of blood tests to find a match "because these people could possibly help Hosanna in a physical way that we will never be able to", Cathy Crowell said.

The letter caught the attention of the authorities in Tianzhu, who have pledged to assist the couple in their search.

Led by the local internet information office, a notice was made to spread Hosanna's story in the hope of tracking down a relative. Copies of the notice were given out to local school heads, who were told to pass them on to students and parents.

While there have been no leads so far, the couple said they remain hopeful.

"We do not want to pressure them. They need our respect and we want them to come forward on their own. This is not easy for them," Cathy Crowell said.

Nevertheless, the couple have been introducing Hosanna to Chinese culture and she has been learning Mandarin for five years.

"We hope that one day she can help us visit China and be our interpreter," Cathy Crowell said.

Contact the writer at liangshuang@chinadaily.com.cn

Animal rescue



Border patrol officers help local residents evacuate sheep in Xigaze, Tibet autonomous region, on Sunday. The officers participated in disaster-relief efforts after the area was hit by a snowstorm over the weekend. XU XIAOLONG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Man to traverse Silk Road on foot

More than 40 pairs of running shoes, five oranges, boxes of peanut brittle and his legs were all Kai Markus Xiong from Germany packed for his super marathon that started on Sunday.

Xiong, 44, began his journey at Hamburg's landmark concert hall — the Elbphilharmonie — by the Elbe River, and he plans to finish his trip in Shanghai.

Xiong described his adventure as "a bit crazy". Over about eight months, the running enthusiast will travel along the historic Silk Road, a journey of about 12,000 kilometers, on foot, taking an estimated 18.5 million steps.

According to Xiong's ambitious plan, he will "run, hike, walk or crawl" 50 to 70 km per day, reaching his destination in November.

Along with him, his best friend, experienced adventurer Victor Neubauer, will transport most of the equipment and food in a Volkswagen Beetle, hauling a caravan.

They will rest and stock up on supplies in cities or villages en route, but if they are in the middle of nowhere, they will use the caravan for warmth and to sleep, Xiong said.

"The most difficult thing about the journey is that I



Kai Markus Xiong, running enthusiast from Germany

and Chinese," Xiong said, adding that his long journey will be covered by *Nihao Deutschland*, a television program that presents China to German audiences.

Xiong said most Germans are aware of China's economic development, but they probably don't know that China has made progress in numerous other fields in the past several decades.

XINHUA

will not be around to support my friends and family," added Xiong, who has a Chinese wife and a child.

The ancient trade route, linking the East and West, witnessed merchants and explorers, but never before a jogger.

"The main goal is to bridge cultural gaps and dismantle prejudices between Germans



Online See more by scanning the code.

Public interest suit filed to claim compensation for consumers

By LI WENFANG in Guangzhou liwenfang@chinadaily.com.cn

Guangdong Consumer Council has filed the country's first public interest lawsuit to request compensation in the field of consumption.

The lawsuit is requesting compensation for the consumption of meat from sick and dead pigs, and of pork preserved using hazardous liquid.

On behalf of consumers, the council is requesting compensation of more than 10 million yuan (\$1.44 million) from the 20 defendants, as well as an apology through mainstream media and payment of lawyers' and litigation fees.

The 20 defendants were seized in Huizhou and Shenzhen in a joint operation by police in Shenzhen's Longgang district and the city's market supervisory authority in 2015.

Longgang district procuratorate prosecuted the defendants on criminal charges last year, with the second trial of the case currently underway.

Considering the serious harm to consumers and the adverse impact on society, the

10 million yuan

Compensation requested by Guangdong Consumer Council from 20 defendants who sold substandard pork

council filed the lawsuit on March 8 at the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court, the council said in a statement.

Public interest litigation is practiced in the fields of environmental protection and consumption in China.

Since 2014, when the Law on the Protection of Consumer Rights and Interests was amended, consumer organizations across the country have filed public interest litigations, all of which aimed only to stop criminal practices. None of the cases were accepted by courts or were withdrawn due to settlement agreements, except one, which lead to a public apology.

"We believe that public interest litigation is an effective way to target individual offenders and businesses," the council said.

The compensation value

was reached by calculating the revenue earned from selling the meat of sick or dead pigs.

If the council wins the case, it will divide the compensation out among the victims in this case, said Yang Shu'na, deputy secretary-general of the council.

If a victim fails to claim their compensation or there is a surplus, the money will be handed to the State coffer or a public interest fund for the protection of consumer rights.

Pork is the most commonly eaten meat in China. Despite a heavy crackdown by the government to address the issue of substandard meat, some businesses, driven by financial benefit, continue to evade supervision, said Zhu Lieyu, director of Guangdong Guardian Law Firm, who serve as the attorney in this case.

Consumers are not often aware of the quality of the pork they consume, which makes it difficult for them to safeguard their rights, Zhu said.

This is a landmark case, which will boost the public interest litigation system regarding consumption, Zhu said.

Zhang Yingshu contributed to this story.

Briefly

JIANGXI Province reports new H7N9 cases

Four more human infections of H7N9 bird flu have been reported in Jiangxi province, including one fatality, local health authorities said on Monday. The new cases brought the number of infections in the province this year to 36, with 12 fatalities, according to the provincial health and family planning commission.

GUANGDONG Customs seize endangered wildlife

Customs officers have seized 236 wild animals smuggled from

overseas, local authorities said on Monday. Customs authorities in Shenzhen said they intercepted a container truck at 1 am on Sunday, finding 165 turtles and 71 scorpions hidden in three polystyrene boxes. The driver was detained and the animals were handed over to the city's wildlife protection center.

TIBET Region to improve rural infrastructure

All counties in the Tibet autonomous region, apart from Medog, will have access to asphalt roads, while all townships will have proper roads constructed this year, according to the region's roadwork conference

on Friday. In addition, postal outlets will be established in all townships, while 285 villages along the border will be connected with roads this year, it was announced.

YUNNAN Woman detained for transporting drugs

A Myanmar woman has been detained on suspicion of transporting drugs, local police announced on Monday. Police in Changning county said they confiscated 4.026 kilograms of heroin from the woman. The woman has been detained, with the case still under investigation.

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